

Abstract

NON CANNULATED DILATORS

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5 A non-cannulated dilator that is designed with a rigid elongated solid
body and with a judiciously configured tip is utilized as the first dilator of a
series of dilators which are inserted into the body of a patient for minimally
invasive spinal surgery and is made from a solid elongated body, that could
be round, ovoid or other cross sectional configuration whose diameter is
greater than one and a half (1½) millimeter, and that includes a tool engaging
end portion at the proximal end is sufficiently rigid so as not to bend and has
10 a pointed shaped insertion end portion at the distal end with the point of the
pointed end being discreetly blunted and utilized in a surgical procedure as a
replacement of the typical guide wire and is characterized as providing a "feel"
to the surgeon as it penetrates through the tissue and muscle of the patient as
it proceeds toward the target.